(b) to (d) The proposal of Rural Drinking Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project from the Government of Andhra Pradesh was received in May 2004 by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, for posing to the World Bank through Department of Economic Affairs. The same was examined and returned to the State Government on 11th October 2004 to re-cast and include the concepts of decentralized service delivery for rural water as in Swajaldhara guidelines. The revised proposal is awaited.

Allocation of more funds under PMGSY to Gujarat

2393. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has asked Government for allocation of more funds and upgradation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) whether in this scheme Gujarat has been put to a disadvantageous position as allocation of grant is on the basis of habitations remaining to be connecfted;

(c) whether as a result, these roads are not near the standard envisaged in the PMGSY; and

(d) whether Government would give allocation weightage during allotment of amount to State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana aims at providing connectivity to hitherto unconnected habitations with designated population size in the country. Keeping this objective in view, priority is given to New Connectivity to unconnected habitatins, over upgradation of existing roads, and accordingly, funds are allocated. Modification of this principle would adversely affect the objective of the Programme. The technical specification of the roads which are not under PMGSY could be different from the specification adopted for the PMGSY road works.